

REMARKS

Upon entry of this First Response, claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 5-7 and 9-19 have been allowed, claims 1, 3, and 8 have been directly amended herein. Further, claim 20 is newly added. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application. Examination, consideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Response to §102 Rejections

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. See, e.g., *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Claim 1

Claim 1 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by *Tanaka* (U.S. Patent No. 6,759,698). Amended claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A system for automatically routing power in an integrated circuit, the system comprising:
memory for storing data defining a representation of an integrated circuit having a power contact and a power connection; and
logic configured to analyze the data and determine a first location of the power contact and a second location of the power connection based on the data, the logic further configured to automatically route power from the power connection to the power contact. (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Tanaka* fails to disclose at least the features of claim 1 highlighted hereinabove.

In this regard, it is alleged in the Office Action that *Tanaka* discloses “logic (3) configured to analyze the data (Col. 3, Line 16) and to automatically route power from the power connection (8) to the power contact (11) (Col. 4, Line 26.” See Office Action, page 2. However, *Tanaka* fails to disclose or suggest that the alleged “logic (3)” further “determine[s] a first location of the power contact and a second location of the power connection.” Thus, *Tanaka* fails to disclose at least the features of claim 1 highlighted hereinabove.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant asserts that *Tanaka* fails to disclose each feature of pending claim 1, and the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 should, therefore, be withdrawn.

Claim 2 and 20

Claim 2 presently stands rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by *Tanaka*, and claim 20 is newly added. Applicant submits that the pending dependent claims 2 and 20 contain all features of their respective independent claim 1. Since amended claim 1 includes limitations not disclosed in *Tanaka* and is therefore allowable as argued hereinabove, pending dependent claims 2 and 20 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 3

Claim 3 is objected to in the Office Action, but the Office Action does not specifically provide reasons for the objection. Per a telephone conversation initiated by the Applicant's attorney on February 21, 2005, the Examiner indicated that claim 3 would be allowed if the claim is rewritten to include the limitations of its independent claim and all intervening dependent claims.

Therefore, Claim 3 has been directly amended herein to include all the limitations of the claims from which it depends. In particular, claim 3 has been amended to include all the limitations from claims 1 and 2. Applicant submits that amended claim 3 is now in allowable form, and respectfully requests that the outstanding objection to claim 3 be withdrawn.

Claim 4

Claim 4 presently stands objected to in the Office Action. Applicant submits that the pending dependent claim 4 contains all features of its respective independent claim 3. Since amended claim 3 is allowable, pending dependent claim 4 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 8

Claim 8 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by *Tanaka*. Amended claim 8 reads as follows:

8. A system for automatically routing power in an integrated circuit, the system comprising:
 - means for storing data defining a representation of an integrated circuit having a power contact and a power connection;
 - means for analyzing the data;
 - means for defining a design block of the integrated circuit, the design block comprising the power contact;***
 - means for defining boundary box data defining a region that comprises a plurality of signal routes;*** and
 - means for automatically routing power from the power connection to the power contact based upon the design block and boundary box defined.*** (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Tanaka* fails to disclose at least the features of claim 8 highlighted hereinabove.

In this regard, it is alleged in the Office Action that *Tanaka* discloses “means (3) for analyzing the data (Col. 3, Line 16).” See Office Action, page 2. However, *Tanaka* fails to disclose “means for defining a design block of the integrated circuit, the design block comprising the power contact,” “means for defining boundary box data defining a region that comprises a plurality of signal routes,” and “means for automatically routing power from the power connection to the power contact based upon the design block and boundary box defined,” as claimed in amended claim 8. Thus, *Tanaka* fails to disclose at least the features of claim 8 highlighted hereinabove.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant asserts that *Tanaka* fails to disclose each feature of pending claim 8, and the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 should, therefore, be withdrawn.

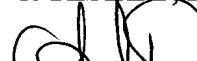
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted ,

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